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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

513 7590 03/03/2010

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
1030 15th Street, N.W.,
Suite 400 East
Washington, DC 20005-1503

EXAMINER

ALMATRAHI, FARIS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/537,549

06/03/2005

Motoji Ohmori

2005_0839A

4770

TITLE OF INVENTION: SALES SYSTEM AND RECORDING MEDIUM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/03/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

513 7590 03/03/2010

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
1030 15th Street, N.W.,
Suite 400 East
Washington, DC 20005-1503

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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/537,549	06/03/2005	Motoji Ohmori	2005_0839A	4770
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TITLE OF INVENTION: SALES SYSTEM AND RECORDING MEDIUM

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/03/2010
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EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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ALMATRAHI, FARIS S	3627	705-016000
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1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

ALMATRAHI, FARIS S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2010

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 900 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 900 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/537,549	OHMORI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FARIS ALMATRAHI	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/20/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4 and 16-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/20/2009</u></p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</p> | <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</p> <p>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</p> |
|--|--|

/Faris Almatrahi/
Examiner, Art Unit 3627

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen W. Kopchik on January 26, 2010.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
Claims 3 and 5-15 have been cancelled.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A sales system comprising:
a recording medium for use in purchasing a commodity;[[, and]] a register
apparatus for performing processing for settlement of payment for purchase of the
commodity;[[,]] and a server apparatus for managing commodity sales information
relating to sales of commodities, the server apparatus being located in a shop, wherein
wherein the recording medium includes:
a reception unit configured to receive pre-receipt information indicating a
regular selling price of the commodity, and commodity information;
a storage unit configured to store condition information that indicates a
condition to be fulfilled in order for a discount to be applied to the regular selling
price of the commodity, and calculation method information indicating a method

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for calculating a discount amount;

a judgment unit configured to judge, when the commodity is being purchased, whether the discount is to be applied, based on the condition information;

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a calculation unit configured to calculate, when the judgment unit judges that the discount is to be applied, the discount amount, based on the calculation method information and the pre-receipt information; and

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an output unit configured to output the discount amount, wherein the register apparatus includes:

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a generation unit configured to generate the pre-receipt information, the pre-receipt information being generated before the judgment unit of the recording medium judges that the discount is to be applied;

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a reception unit configured to receive the discount amount;

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a calculation unit configured to calculate a discounted selling price of the commodity by subtracting the discount amount from the regular selling price; and

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a payment processing unit configured to perform settlement processing for payment for selling the commodity at the discounted selling price.[]]

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wherein the recording medium stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount amount that is discounted from the regular selling price.

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wherein the register apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included, to the server apparatus, and

wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server management information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and is configured to (i) receive the commodity sales information that includes the bearer information, and stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge whether the bearer information included in the commodity sales information matches the stored sales server manager

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information, and (iii) when the commodity sales information is judged to not match the stored sales server manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to an external server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and delete the stored commodity sales information.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The sales system of Claim 1, wherein the commodity sales information includes the regular selling price of the commodity that has been sold, the discount amount, and the discounted selling price, and wherein the server apparatus is further configured to internally store the received commodity sales information.

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Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The sales system of Claim 1[[3]], further comprising a server apparatus provided in an external location to the shop, wherein the server apparatus provided in the external location is the external server, and stores, therein external manager information that indicates a manager of the external server and that matches the bearer information, and is configured to receive the commodity sales information from the server apparatus located in the shop, and internally store the received commodity sales information.

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Claims 5-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A sales system comprising a mobile information terminal for use in purchasing a commodity;[[.]], a register apparatus for performing processing for settlement of payment for purchase of the commodity;[[.]] and a server apparatus for managing commodity sales information relating to sales of commodities, the server apparatus being located in a shop, wherein the mobile information terminal includes:

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a reception unit configured to receive pre-receipt information indicating a regular selling price of the commodity, and commodity information;

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a storage unit configured to store condition information that indicates a condition to be fulfilled in order for a discount to be applied to the regular selling price of the commodity, and calculation method information indicating a method for calculating a discount amount;

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a judgment unit configured to judge, when the commodity is being purchased, whether the discount is to be applied, based on the condition information;

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a calculation unit configured to calculate, when the judgment unit judges that the discount is to be applied, the discount amount, based on the calculation method information and the pre-receipt information; and

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an output unit configured to output the discount amount,

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wherein the register apparatus includes:

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a generation unit configured to generate the pre-receipt information, the pre-receipt information being generated before the judgment unit of the mobile information terminal judges that the discount is to be applied;

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a reception unit configured to receive the discount amount;

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a calculation unit configured to calculate a discounted selling price of the commodity by subtracting the discount amount from the regular selling price; and

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a payment processing unit configured to perform settlement processing for payment for selling the commodity at the discounted selling price. [[.]]

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wherein the mobile information terminal stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount amount that is discounted from the regular selling price,

wherein the register apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included, to the server apparatus, and

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wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server management information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and is configured to (i) receive the commodity sales information that includes the bearer information, and stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge whether the bearer information included in the commodity sales information matches the stored sales server manager information, and (iii) when the commodity sales information is judged to not match the stored sales server manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to an external server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and delete the internally stored commodity sales information.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The sales system of Claim 1, wherein

the judgment made by the judgment unit of the recording medium and the calculation made by the calculation unit of the recording medium are solely made by the recording medium.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The sales system of Claim 16, wherein

the judgment made by the judgment unit of the mobile information terminal and the calculation made by the calculation unit of the mobile information terminal are solely made by the mobile information terminal.

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Allowable subject matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 16-18 are allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

6. The closest prior art of record are Yamada (US Publication No. 2005/0038705 A1), Fujisawa et al. (US Publication No. 2004/0117301 A1), Sako (US Patent No.

7,093,754 B2), Giuliani (US Patent No. 6,282,516 B1), and Biorge et al. (US Patent No. 5,806,045).

Yamada discloses a system and method relating to a POS (Point Of Sales) server (point-of-sale server), a local terminal, a POS system, a sales control method, and a recording medium. Especially this invention relates to the POS server which controls sales of products in a plurality of stores, the local terminal linked to the POS server, the POS system equipped with the POS server and the local terminal, the sales control method, and the recording medium that stores the above-mentioned program. the POS server controls a plurality of local terminals arranged in a plurality of stores, having the first and second control apparatus which receive and store dealing information, from the first local terminal respectively, which shows that products dealing was conducted in the first local terminal among said plurality of local terminals, and notifies that said dealing information was received, to said first local terminal.

Fujisawa et al. discloses a system and method for managing credit card use for a plural number of credit cards and to reconcile credit card statements. The data processing system has multiple POS terminals and cash registers, and a personal computer. The POS terminals and cash registers can write card usage information to a small, portable storage device represented by an IC card having a rewritable nonvolatile storage unit for storing multiple card usage information records. The card usage information includes credit card number information, payment method information, payment date information, and payment amount information. The personal computer runs a read process to read the card usage information from the IC card, and a

transaction management process based on the card usage information read by the read process. The IC card can communicate wirelessly with the POS terminals and cash registers.

Sako relates to a data recording apparatus, a data recording method, a data reproducing apparatus and a data reproducing method that are designed to activate both the market distributing contents data by means of package media and the market distributing contents data by way of wired and wireless communication means by discounting the price of the contents data being purchased by a customer by way of a wired or wireless communication means depending on the purchase history of package media of the customer and also discounting the price of the package media being purchased by a customer depending on the purchase history of contents data of the customer by way of wired and wireless communication means.

Giuliani discloses a system and method for distributing purchasing incentives throughout departments of a retail store including an incentive processor including a network controller and a database for storing shopping histories of consumers associated with respective unique consumer identifiers; a plurality of incentive distributors located throughout the departments of the retail store, each incentive distributor of the plurality of incentive distributors having a unique address, and including, a processor, a printing device, a network interface device, and one of a card reader device and a scanner device; and a network, coupling the network controller to network interface devices of the plurality of incentive distributors, for effecting two-way communications between the incentive processor and the plurality of incentive

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distributors. Each card reader device and each scanner device of the plurality of incentive distributors is configured to detect a card device passed therethrough or key tag device scanned therein, respectively. The card device and the key tag device having a unique consumer identifier encoded therein, and the unique consumer identifier is detected by a card reader or scanner device of a respective incentive distributor of the plurality of incentive distributors and transmitted via a network interface of the respective incentive distributor over the network to the network controller coupled to the incentive processor. The incentive processor is configured to generate the purchasing incentives based on a shopping history of a consumer associated with a detected unique consumer identifier received from the respective incentive distributor and a location of the respective incentive distributor determined from the unique address thereof.

Biorge et al. discloses a system and method for implementing a multiple provider incentive program in an off-line or a selective on-line environment which allows multiple transactions to be processed for a large number of service and merchandise providers and producers (multiple providers). Included in this system is a dynamic allocation system for collecting, transferring, and distributing funds among participating parties. A transaction amount is derived from the transaction and, based on this amount, an incentive credit amount is computed. The base device performs this computation by deriving an incentive code and cross-referencing this incentive code with all customer incentive codes stored on the customer-carried device and incentive program codes stored on the provider device to derive an incentive rate. This incentive

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rate is applied to the transaction amount to derive the incentive amount. The incentive amount is stored on the customer-carried device. To redeem the incentive credits stored on the customer-carried device, the customer enters into a second transaction with the same provider or another participating provider. A second transaction amount is derived from this transaction and the customer may choose to redeem some or all of the incentive credits stored on the customer-carried device to lower the transaction amount. When incentive credits are redeemed, they are subtracted from the incentive amount on the customer-carried device.

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a system wherein the recording medium stores thereon bearer information in correspondence with the condition information and the calculation method information, and is configured to output the bearer information in correspondence with the calculated discount amount, the bearer information indicating a bearer who bears the discount amount that is discounted from the regular selling price, wherein the register apparatus is configured to receive the bearer information, and output the commodity sales information in which the bearer information is included, to the server apparatus, and wherein the server apparatus stores therein shop server management information that indicates a manager of the server apparatus, and is configured to (i) receive the commodity sales information that includes the bearer information, and stores the commodity sales information, (ii) judge whether the bearer information included in the commodity sales information

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matches the stored sales server manager information, and (iii) when the commodity sales information is judged to not match the stored sales server manager information, transmit the commodity sales information to an external server managed by the bearer indicated by the bearer information and delete the stored commodity sales information. The limitation mentioned above along with the other claimed limitations of independent claims 1 and 16 are novel and unobvious and are deemed allowable over the prior art of record. Dependent claims of 1 and 16 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faris Almatrahi whose telephone number is (571) 270-3326. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Faris Almatrahi/
Examiner, Art Unit 3627

FA

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627